

RECOGNIZING SGT SHINYEI
"ROCKY" MATAYOSHI ON EARN-
ING THE DISTINGUISHED SERV-
ICE CROSS FOR EXTRAORDINARY
HEROISM DURING ACTION IN
WORLD WAR II

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on June 7th, 2011, former Technical Sergeant Shinyei Rocky Matayoshi will go the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism during World War II as a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army. This marks the 29th Distinguished Service Cross awarded to the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Rocky was born in 1924 in the sugar plantation town of Koloa on the island of Kauai. He was a senior at Kauai High School when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Shortly after the attack, Rocky's father was arrested and sent to a detention center for Japanese Americans in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Rocky left school to work for the sugar plantation to help with the war effort and support his family.

When the call for volunteers for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was announced in February 1942, Rocky was one of three in his community to volunteer. He hoped that by volunteering and demonstrating his loyalty, his father would be allowed to come home to care for his five other children. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

Rocky was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion of the 442nd. He began as a private and through diligence and hard work was promoted to Technical Sergeant of the 3rd Platoon. Following his training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Rocky went with his unit to Italy in June 1944. He participated in every campaign in Italy and France and reported for roll call every day except for two days when he was confined to the field hospital for illness.

Rocky's combat philosophy was to serve as his own scout—and to take the highest risk assignments for himself. He led by example, displaying courage and leadership, which his men accepted and respected.

I quote from the citation awarding the Distinguished Service Cross to Technical Sergeant Shinyei "Rocky" Matayoshi:

For extraordinary heroism in action:

Technical Sergeant Shinyei Matayoshi distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Platoon Sergeant in Company G, 2d Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team during combat operations against an armed enemy on Mount Belvedere, Italy. On 7 April 1945, Technical Sergeant Matayoshi ordered his Platoon to advance up the steep slopes of Mount Belvedere to seize the heavily fortified forest areas that were under enemy control. As the Platoon approached the elevated ridge line, Technical Sergeant Matayoshi's Platoon was attacked by intense machine gun fire from at least five enemy machine gun nests from frontal, left and right flanks. Technical Sergeant Matayoshi did not waiver despite enduring an overabundance of devastating automatic and small arms fire while attacking the first machine gun nest. While suppressing the

enemy with his Thompson machine gun and throwing hand grenades, he killed four enemy soldiers and took one prisoner. Despite the intensive barrage of enemy firepower, directed against him, Technical Sergeant Matayoshi moved forward leading the direct assault destroying three other machine gun nests, killing or wounding approximately fifteen enemy soldiers, some at as close as a five meter range. Technical Sergeant Matayoshi secured the key terrain, which paved the way for the Battalion's pursuit of the retreating enemy soldiers. Technical Sergeant Matayoshi's selfless leadership, courageous actions, and extraordinary devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company G, 2d Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team, and the Army of the United States.

When I read this, I am struck by the courage and willingness to sacrifice shown by Sgt. Matayoshi and all the other young Japanese American men under his command. At age 21, with his father held in a detention camp for the crime of being of Japanese ancestry, Rocky willingly offered his life in defense of liberty and, most important, of the United States. These young men were patriots in the true sense of the word.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross and the Congressional Gold Medal recently bestowed on all members of the 442nd and 100th Battalion, Rocky received the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, the Purple Heart Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Citation, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the European-African Campaign Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars and one Arrowhead, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Rocky married Elsie Goya of Honolulu, and they have four children. After attending Wilson Community College and the Illinois Institute of Technology, Rocky worked in an auto body shop and part-time at a gas station. His children all earned full scholarships to fund their undergraduate degrees. Two of his children earned doctorates—one in physiology and the other in biophysics—and another earned a masters degree in biology, all on fellowships.

Congratulations, Rocky, on receiving this overdue recognition. You and your brothers in arms taught America a vital lesson that is still valid today. Being an American is not a matter of one's ethnic heritage or race—it is defined by patriotism and a willingness to sacrifice for one's country. Anyone who questions the patriotism of Americans of different ethnic backgrounds must confront the example of the Japanese American heroes of World War II.

Thank you for your selfless service to our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPAL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate The Principal Financial Group, led by CEO Larry Zimbleman, for being recently being named a 2011 Freedom Award Recipient. The Freedom Award is

the highest recognition by the Department of Defense given to employers that display exceptional support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve.

Principal employee Major Kerry M. Studer nominated Principal for this award. Major Studer is also a recent recipient of the Bronze Star Medal for his noble service as Commanding Officer of the 443rd Transportation Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major Studer nominated Principal Financial Group for this award because of the "the extraordinary lengths" his company went in order to support him and his family while he was away defending our freedoms. While he was away, his coworkers looked closely after his family and would gladly accompany his wife and children to school and sporting events that he was unable to attend. Principal also "adopted" Major Studer's unit and mailed them hundreds of PT uniforms, t-shirts and countless care packages.

Principal is one of only 15 companies to receive this prestigious award amidst the 4,049 nominations submitted. Principal and the other 2011 honorees will be recognized here in Washington later this year at the 16th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Ceremony. Principal Financial Group joins an elite class as only 145 employers have attained this honor in the last 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, Major Studer's commitment and courage during his service coupled with his company's unwavering support serves as an important example of American patriotism in the heartland as well as the battlefield. I commend Major Studer, Larry Zimbleman, and all the employees of Principal for their selfless dedication to a cause greater than their own. It is my honor to represent Major Studer, his family and all Iowans in the United States Congress and I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating them for their accomplishment.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Rokita amendment (#2) to H.R. 2017, "Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes." This amendment only hinders future progress in decreasing TSA's current attrition rates.

As you may already know, this February, John Pistole, TSA's Administrator, who has performed 20 years of distinguished service with the FBI, came to the conclusion that allowing the transportation security workforce to collectively bargain would not result in lessening in the quality of security operations.

As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Transportation, I am keenly aware that over the years, the Committee on Homeland Security has conducted thorough and extensive oversight into the cause for attrition within the TSA workforce. The attrition rate at TSA was high enough that it caught the attention of our committee.

Consistently, TSA personnel who decided to leave the agency criticized the availability of security training and responsiveness of line supervisors to workplace concerns. We must protect the tens of millions of dollars that American taxpayers have invested in hiring, training, and deploying TSA staff.

I strongly believe that Administrator Pistole's decision was the right one and his decision must be supported. TSA can be strengthened by providing their workers with a personnel system that is fair, credible and transparent, and with a voice in the development of workplace quality standards that will make the traveling public even safer.

There are currently a number of examples, throughout the federal government, where the conferring of collective bargaining rights have helped to secure the Nation. From the Customs and Border Protection to the Federal Protective Service, we see that collective bargaining rights can be made available in furtherance of security.

TSA employees have already begun to assert their right to collective bargaining. This amendment comes at the worst time, when TSOs are currently voting on selecting union representation. With our Nation and our transportation, in particular, facing serious and credible terrorist threats, this is not the time to punish our frontline homeland security personnel. We must give them the tools and resources to effectively perform their duties.

The Pistole decision cleared the way for an election and, in April, the Federal Labor Relations Authority tallied the votes. While neither of the competing unions won the vote outright, the message that the 40,000 Transportation Security Officers sent was unequivocal—they want to be unionized. There is a run-off underway.

This amendment would recklessly bring all the progress to a halt and unnecessarily damage morale within the TSA when the nation is at a state of "heightened alert."

BRENT BESHORE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a locally coordinated, social media-based fundraiser that was held recently in Columbia, MO, for the Joplin tornado relief effort that raised more than \$1 million.

This story begins on Sunday, May 22, 2011 with Brent Beshore, a Joplin native turned Columbia entrepreneur, who immediately after the tornado struck Joplin began to call, email,

text and Facebook family and friends to ensure they were safe. Wanting more information, but without anywhere to go, Brent created a Facebook page titled "Joplin, MO Tornado Recovery" so others would have a place to get and share information. Brent then began pulling information from a Twitter feed set up to track Joplin and tornado keywords, information and requests and sharing it with the group. The Facebook page grew almost instantaneously from 60 likes, to 600, then to 6000 and continued to grow at an almost exponential pace. The group currently has over 170,000 likes.

Brent reached out to Tim Rich, executive director of the Heart of Missouri United Way and a former staff member for my predecessor, Congressman Kenny Hulshof, to set up a fund for relief efforts. Tim without hesitation set up a special fund that would go one hundred percent of its proceeds to Joplin tornado relief. Within hours of the tornado, Brent and Tim had established the world's first dedicated tornado relief fund for Joplin. They quickly established an ambitious fundraising goal of \$500,000. KOMU-TV, the NBC-affiliated television station for Mid-Missouri also played a key role in getting the word out about the fundraising efforts and even held a telethon to assist Joplin.

Through these efforts donations came in from small towns in Missouri to as far away as Saudi Arabia, Sweden and South Africa. A simple idea had quickly turned into a global operation.

Brent was in contact with politicians, musicians, disaster relief experts, and Fortune 500 charitable foundations. Social media was constantly updated and organized.

The results were nothing short of astonishing. By Thursday May 26, their fundraising efforts surpassed their greatest expectations, taking in over \$1 million. The team had executed a flawless event including an on-air prime time telethon and had collected donations from around the world. The Facebook page was referenced as a go-to resource by most national media outlets. The relief efforts were even re-tweeted by Oprah Winfrey.

The idea of one man, executed with the help of his friends and his community, has benefited so many. I ask my colleagues in joining me and thanking all the volunteers who made this effort a resounding success. I also ask my colleagues to continue to keep all of the people impacted by this disaster in their thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SERGEANT CRAIG BERRY, AFTER
20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO THE NORWICH POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sergeant Craig Berry of Norwich,

NY. Sergeant Berry recently retired after 20 years of dedicated service in the Norwich City Police Department.

Sergeant Berry began his career with the Norwich Police Department at the age of 25, on March 17, 1991. Twenty years later, the department honored the retirement of one of its finest officers on April 16, 2011. Berry not only played an important role in the community, but was also especially appreciated for his help with modernizing the department's technology.

Law enforcement officers must be recognized for the true bravery and selflessness that they display on the job every day. Sergeant Berry is yet another example of this, an honorable American, who has dedicated 20 years of his life to the improvement and safety of his community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in honoring Sergeant Craig Berry for his 20 years of exemplary service on behalf of the Norwich community and Police Department.

A TRIBUTE TO LORETTA SIEMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Loretta Sieman who was recently named Citizen of the Year by the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce.

Loretta Sieman has been an active member of the West Des Moines community for numerous years, serving on the school board and the city council. She has also been instrumental in various other organizations, including the Science Center of Iowa board, the Junior Achievement of Central Iowa board, the Winefest board, the Prairie Meadows grants board, and the Metro Advisory Council.

As the former vice president of community relations for the Business Publications Corporation and owner of LJS Consulting, she has earned several prestigious honors and awards over the years. Loretta has been recognized in Who's Who in Secondary School Education, and has earned the Main Street Governor's Office Individual Volunteer of the Year Award, Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute A. Arthur Davis Award, and the 2009 Business Record Woman of Influence Award.

The West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce could not have chosen a better recipient for this award. I commend Loretta for her dedication to community involvement. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Loretta in being selected to receive this award. It is an honor to serve as her representative, and I wish her the best of luck in the future.